

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2005

TO: Licensed Professional Land Surveyors

FROM: George A. Twiss, P.L.S., Executive Director

SUBJECT: Rules to administer Continuing Education

As you should know the 2005 Washington Legislature passed House Bill 1369 creating the authority for the Board to administer continuing education as a condition of license renewals for professional land surveyors. The terms of the bill that amended the Engineer's Registration Act, Chapter 18.43 RCW, require the Board to have completed the rule making part of the implementation by July 1, 2006.

At this time the Board has developed a preliminary proposal that is attached and is being distributed to all licensees so that we can get the best possible level of response from those who will be affected. In addition to the new sections in Chapter 196-16 WAC, there are several amending actions in other rules that will be impacted by the creation of continuing education.

In developing this body of rules the Board has held to the belief that tightly controlled activities through highly prescriptive rules was not consistent with their philosophy that licensed professionals can be expected to act responsibly. You will see that wherever appropriate the Board chooses to give the licensees discretion and freedom to obtain continuing education in variety of ways. This approach will give each licensee the ability to customize a program that fits his or her needs and preferences.

At this point these rules could best be described as a "straw man proposal" used to initiate dialogue with licensees. Through this distribution and a series of workshops (see attached schedule) to be held across the state in late January and early February, we hope to obtain sufficient feedback to know if this framework for rules will be the starting point for the formal rule making process that will start in March.

When responding, we encourage each of you to take the time to make your individual comments known to the Board. Group responses are welcome but do not give the Board a sense of the breadth of interest in the various aspects that may be generating concern. Because of the amount of input we expect, we will not be able to respond to individual comments as they are submitted. We will prepare an overall response before we start the formal rule making process and post it on our website.

When commenting please use the following of your choice:

Board Email: engineers@dol.wa.gov

Board Fax: (360) 664-2551

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